intensive, in regions characterised by higher rate of unemployment and under-employment. Benefits of employment schemes will flow to all the states covering entire population of the country. The Ninth Plan will contain the details of an employment policy.

[English]

Sand Mining for Minerals

686. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the mining of sand for minerals connected to Atomic Energy Sources are being conducted on coastal areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the private companies and public undertakings are involved in such mining operations;

(d) if so, the details, thereof; and

(e) whether indigeneous companies with experience in handling such minerals proposed to be preferred in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINSTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) Ilmenite, Rutile, Zircon, Leucoxene and Monazite, declared as scheduled minerals under the Atomic Energy Act, are mined from the coastal areas of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Orissa. Total production of these minerals in the last year (1995-96) was as follows :-

	Metric tonnes
Ilmenite	2,98,183
Rutile	12,965
Zircon	20,333
Leucoxene	NIL
Monazite	3,751

(c) to (e) Mining of atomic minerals has been reserved for Public Sector under the Statement on Industrial Policy, 1991. Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL), a Public Sector Undertaking under the administrative control of the Department of Atomic Energy and Kerala Minerals and Metals Limited, a Government of Kerala undertaking are the only companies involved in the mining operations. IRE has its plants at Chavara (Kerala), Manavalakurichi (Tamil Nadu) and Chatrapur (Orissa) for mining and mineral separation. Kerala Minerals and Metals Limited has mining activities only in Chavara (Kerala).

Power Tariff

687. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since worked out the details on the tariff issue and procedure for finalising the transmission project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor, and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (d) Consequent upon the amendments to the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 and the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, recognising 'transmission' as a distinct activity and providing for issue of transmission licenses, a Committee of Experts has been set up by the Ministry of Power on 17.2.1997 to make recommendations relating to establishment of a suitable administrative and financial framework alongwith supporting legal enablements to facilitate private investment in transmission projects. The Committee has been directed, inter alia, to suggest guidelines on determination of transmission tariff(s), negotiation of transmission service agreements and for selection of private companies in the field of transmission including principles for bid solicitation and evaluation. The Committee is to submit its final report to the Ministry of Power within two months from the date of its first sitting.

Mini Refinery

688. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals pending with the Union Government for setting up of mini refinery in the Krishna-Godavari river basin in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether LOI and environmental clearance for the project has been issued for the project; and

(d) the other proposals from private or joint sector or foreign based company for refinery project is pending with the Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF THE PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) No proposal for setting up mini refinery is pending.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The proposals on other refinery project in different stages of processing are :-

(1) M/s. PRA Petrochemicals Limited for setting up of 9.5 MMTPA (EOU) Refinery at Andhra Pradesh.

(2) M/s. Sterlite Industries (India) Limited (EOU) for setting up a 3.00 MMTPA Refinery at Tamil Nadu.

(3) M/s. Sand Plast Industries for setting up 3 MMTPA Refinery (EOU) to be set up in Paradeep, Orissa.

(4) M/s. Chambal Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd. for setting up a 0.21 MMTPA Refinery under DTA at Dabhol, Maharashtra.